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LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, a letter by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Franjo Tudjman, addressed to the President of the Croatian Community of Herzeg-Bosnia, Mr. Mate Boban, concerning the situation with the humanitarian convoys.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

Annex

It is with immense and historical responsibility that I address you and the governing body of the Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia, at this crucial time of survival for the future of the Croatian people in the neighbouring Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an integrated country comprised of three equal peoples.

We welcome the declaration of the Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia as the inevitable outcome of the difficult and tragic events, provoked first by Serbian, and then Muslim aggression, as an expression of the Croatian people's political will in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as a guarantee of their sovereignty and equality of an integrated and independent Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On this basis, I would like once again to strongly appeal that in all your actions you govern with utmost respect for human dignity, fundamental human values and rights, and strictly implement the international war and humanitarian laws. Serbian aggression and the subsequent Muslim aggression against Croatian territory in this entire horrific war have brought intolerable suffering to an innocent population of women, children, elderly, sick, injured, exiled and the inhabitants in the besieged cities and towns. The obligation is upon those capable of influencing the present situation to do all in their power to prevent, eliminate or ease the suffering. That is the obligation to one's own conscience, to the conscience of your people and in accordance to international public opinion.

Therefore, I appeal to you, strongly condemning at the same time, all violations of international war and humanitarian laws, to do all that is necessary for the territories of the Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia to immediately ensure humane treatment of all the detainees in the detention camps, in accordance with the international humanitarian laws and the Geneva Convention.

Furthermore, I ask you to immediately allow free access to the International Committee of the Red Cross to reach the detention camps, which until now have been inaccessible, in order to take an account of the prisoners of war, to arrange their release or exchange, applying the principle of "all-for-all" in accordance with the international convention.

I would like to remind you of my interventions in favour of free passage for humanitarian convoys. Again, I appeal to you to disallow any obstacles in delivering humanitarian aid to all in need, to use everything in your power to offer every assistance to the international humanitarian organizations and the United Nations in their humanitarian mission.

At the same time, I invite all other warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to do the same, and ultimately end the frustration of humanitarian efforts which has pressured the civilian population in Bosnia and Herzegovina

for the past two years. In this way, it would bring about a peace process and enable genuine peace, which is in the interest of all peoples in the afflicted area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also in the interest of peace and stability in the entire territory.